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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951

A. H. GRIFFITH,  
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# WALLINGFORD & WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

## Members of the Committee for 1951-1952

### WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor M. L. Whiteley (Chairman)  
Councillor A. C. Lester

### WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Mrs. N. M. Bosley  
Councillor H. T. Merritt  
Councillor J. M. Dipper

### WANTAGE URBAN COUNCIL

Councillor Miss Adkin  
Councillor A. T. Evans

### WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor R. J. Beasant  
Councillor The Rev. P. Bone (Vice-Chairman)  
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Councillor J. L. Sale  
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Clerk to the Committee: Mr. G. V. Spooner

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. A. H. Griffith, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Clerk: Mr. W. T. Watts



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WALLINGFORD-WANTAGE DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

July, 1952.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951.

This report covers a period before I was appointed as your Medical Officer and it is therefore with some diffidence that I present it to you. All credit must go to Dr. Mackenzie-Wintle, who as your Medical Officer of Health until November, 1951, was responsible for the public health work in the area during the year.

I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspectors of the four districts for their help and ready co-operation in producing information essential to this report and also Dr. Parfit for his work on behalf of the Committee after the departure of Dr. Mackenzie-Wintle.

I am

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. GRIFFITH,

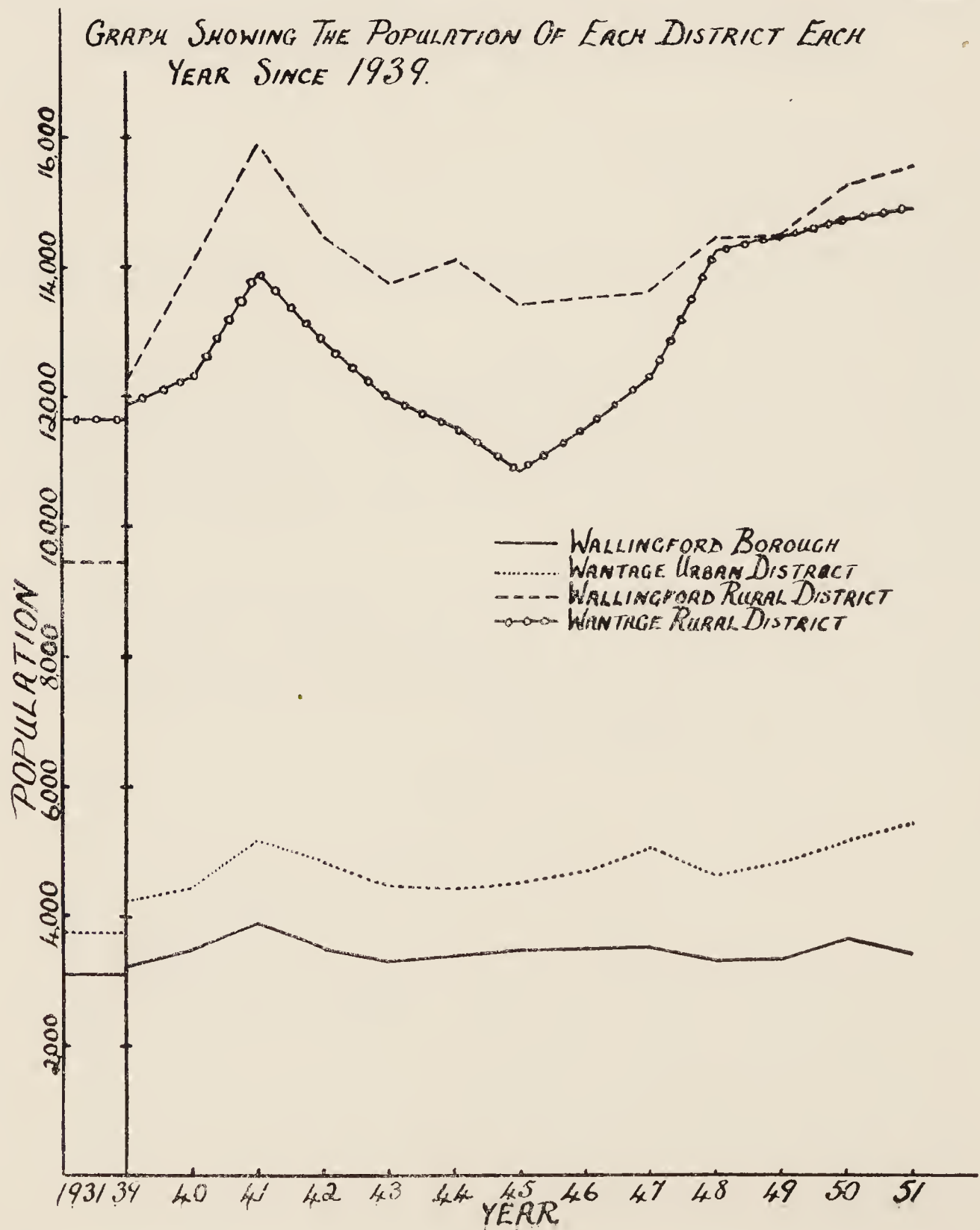
Medical Officer of Health.

# VITAL STATISTICS

## POPULATION

The 1951 mid-year population of all districts except Wallingford Borough, were higher than at mid-year 1950. The area and population of each district is given in the following table:—

| District            | Area in Acres | Estimated Population 1950 | Population 1951 | Difference 1950-51 |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Wallingford Borough | 760           | 3,690                     | 3,536           | −154               |
| Wantage Urban       | 2,797         | 5,194                     | 5,437           | +243               |
| Wallingford Rural   | 21,790        | 15,250                    | 15,570          | +320               |
| Wantage Rural       | 74,181        | 14,774                    | 14,890          | +116               |
| Total               | 99,528        | 38,908                    | 39,433          | +525               |



## BIRTHS

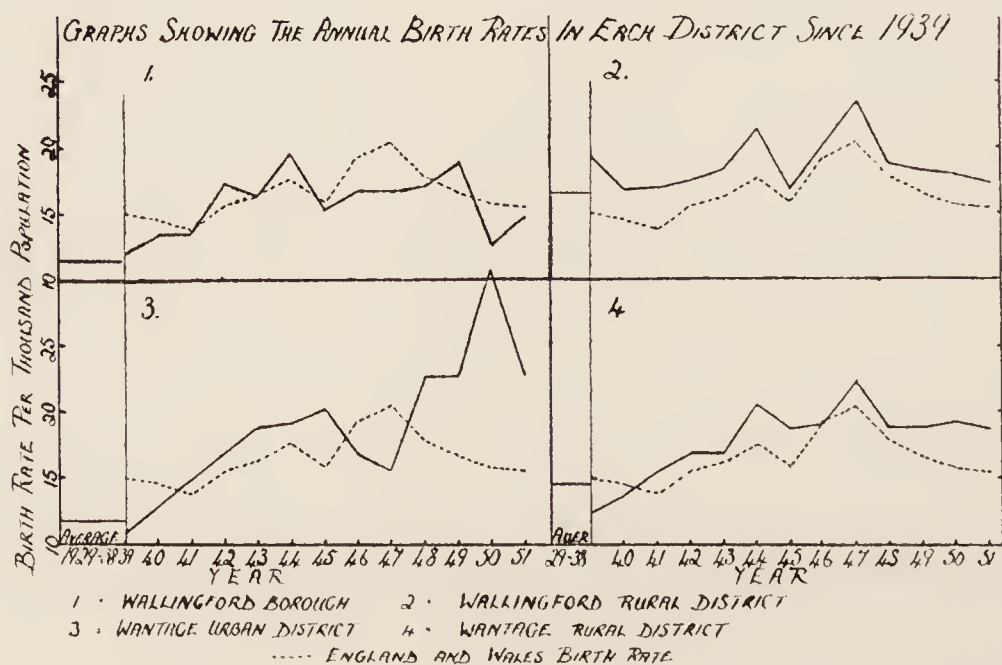
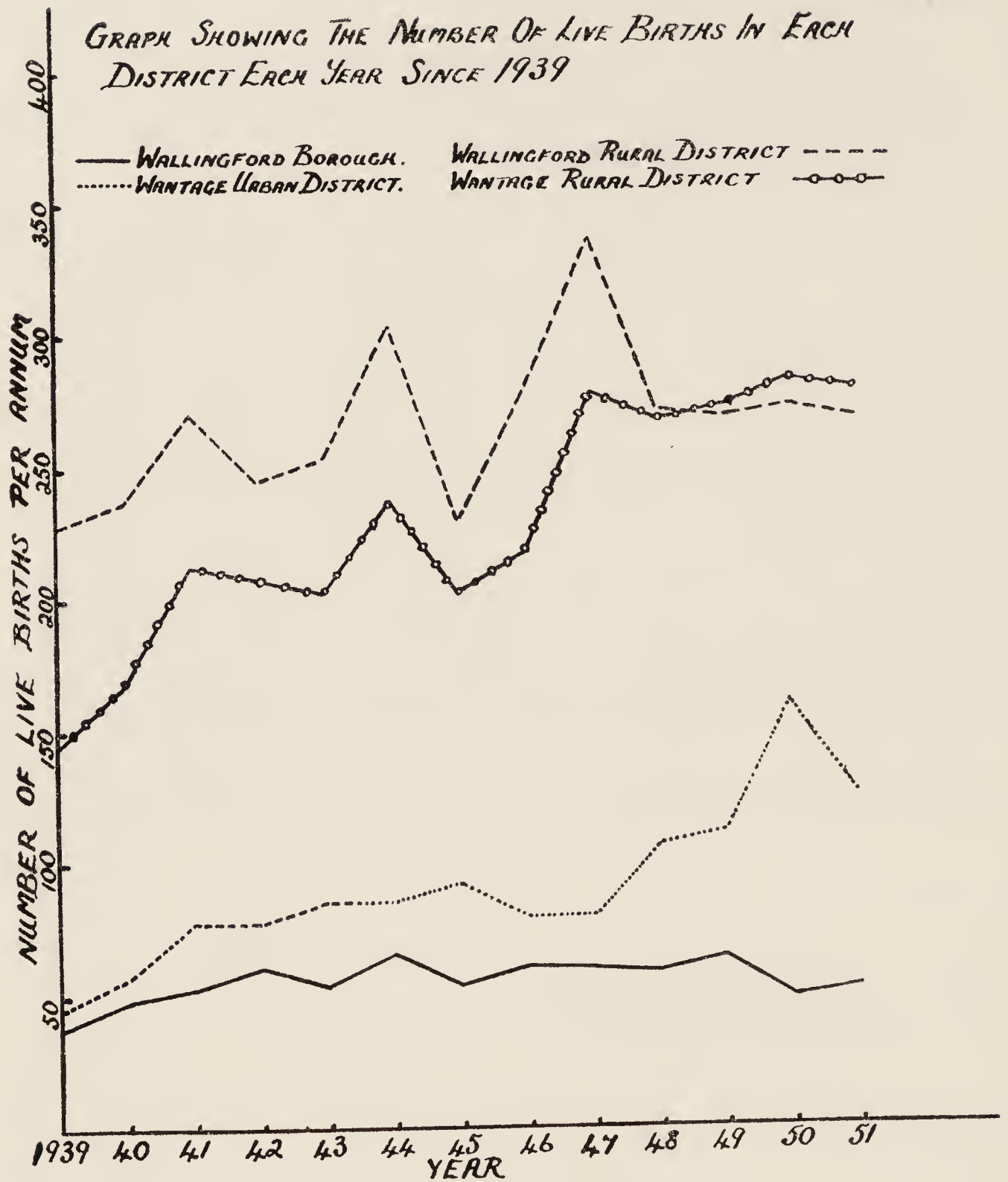
### (i) Live Births

The number of live births and the live birth rate per thousand population in each district during 1950 and 1951 were:—

| District            | Number of Live Births |      |        |       | Live Birth Rate per<br>1000 Population |      |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|-------|----------------------------------------|------|
|                     | 1950                  | 1951 |        |       | 1950                                   | 1951 |
|                     | Total                 | Male | Female | Total |                                        |      |
| Wallingford Borough | 47                    | 27   | 25     | 52    | 12.7                                   | 14.7 |
| Wantage Urban       | 160                   | 63   | 62     | 125   | 30.8                                   | 23.0 |
| Wallingford Rural   | 274                   | 139  | 130    | 269   | 18.8                                   | 17.3 |
| Wantage Rural       | 284                   | 140  | 140    | 280   | 19.2                                   | 18.8 |
| Total               | 765                   | 369  | 357    | 726   | 19.7                                   | 18.3 |
| England and Wales   |                       |      |        |       | 15.8                                   | 15.5 |

In 1951, the birth rates in three of the four districts were, as in previous years, much higher than those of England and Wales generally. The 1951 rates, although higher than pre-war rates, were lower than those of 1950 (except in Wallingford where the 1950 rates were extremely low).

The following graphs show the number of live births and the live birth rate in each district since 1939.



## (ii) Stillbirths

The number of stillbirths in each district during 1949, 1950 and 1951 are given in a table below. The rate of less than 11 stillbirths per 1,000 total births in the combined districts during 1951 was particularly satisfactory.

| District            | Number of Still Births |      |      |
|---------------------|------------------------|------|------|
|                     | 1949                   | 1950 | 1951 |
| Wallingford Borough | 1                      | 3    | 0    |
| Wantage Urban       | 1                      | 6    | 1    |
| Wallingford Rural   | 4                      | 2    | 3    |
| Wantage Rural       | 5                      | 7    | 4    |
| Totals              | 11                     | 18   | 8    |

## (iii) Illegitimate Births

The number of illegitimate births in each district during 1950 and 1951 were:—

| District            | Number of illegitimate live births |      |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------|
|                     | 1950                               | 1951 |
| Wallingford Borough | 2                                  | 1    |
| Wantage Urban       | 6                                  | 8    |
| Wallingford Rural   | 16                                 | 13   |
| Wantage Rural       | 19                                 | 11   |
| Totals              | 43                                 | 33   |

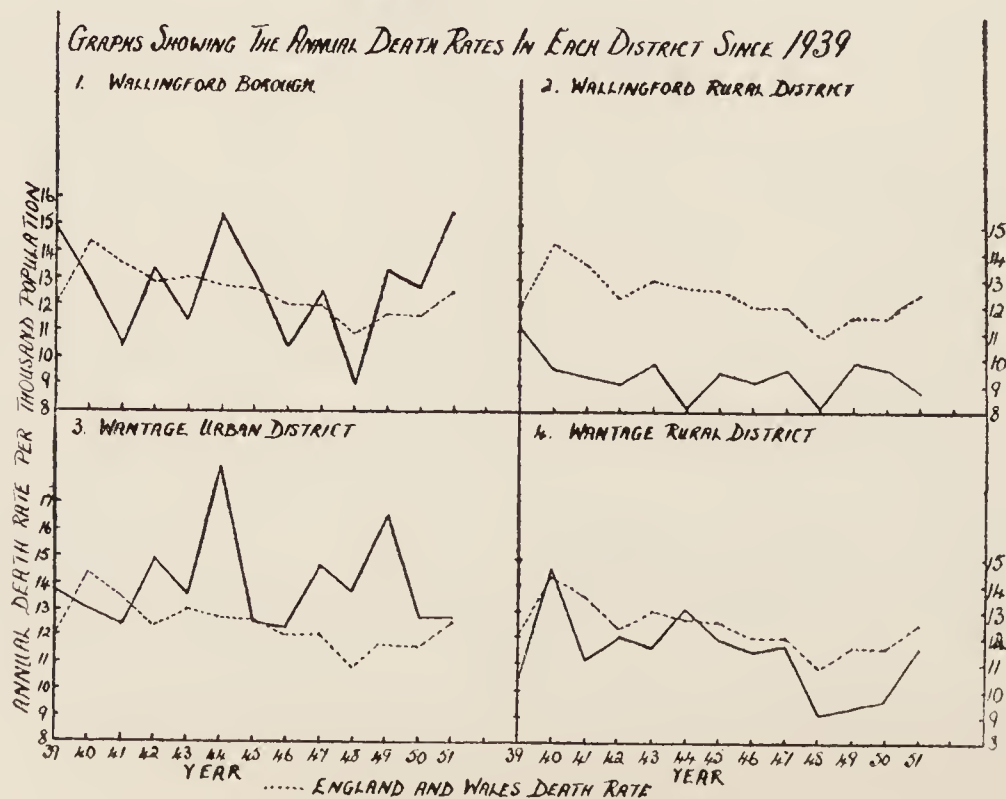
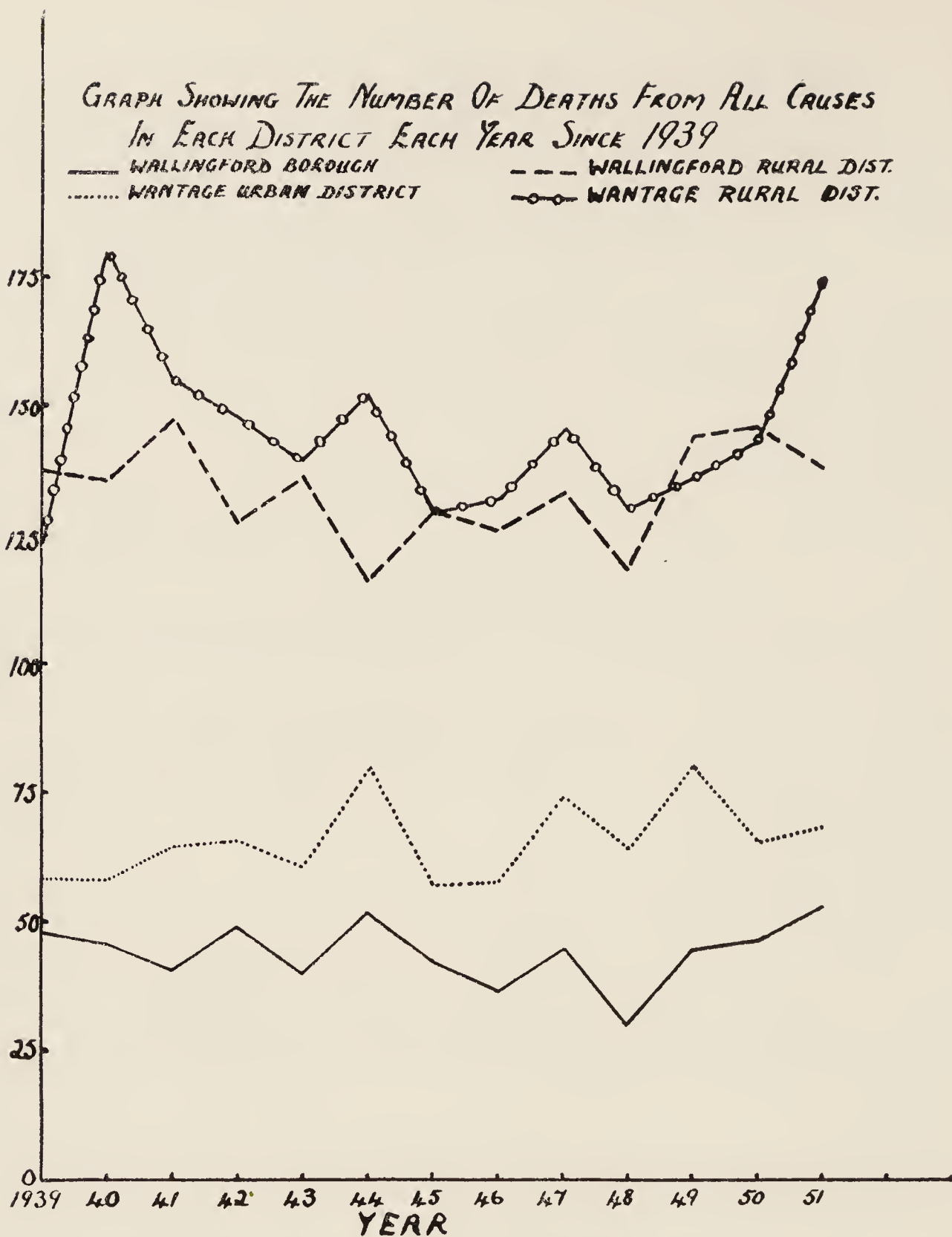
The number of illegitimate live births per hundred total live births in the combined districts during 1950 and 1951 were 5.6 and 4.5 respectively.

## DEATHS

The number from all causes and the death rate per thousand population in each district for the year 1950 and 1951 are given in the following table.

| District            | Number of Deaths |              |                |               | Death Rate per 1000 Population |      |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------|
|                     | 1950<br>(Total)  | 1951<br>Male | 1951<br>Female | 1951<br>Total | 1950                           | 1951 |
| Wallingford Borough | 49               | 29           | 24             | 53            | 12.7                           | 15.0 |
| Wantage Urban       | 66               | 30           | 39             | 69            | 12.7                           | 12.7 |
| Wallingford Rural   | 146              | 79           | 59             | 138           | 9.6                            | 8.8  |
| Wantage Rural       | 143              | 86           | 88             | 174           | 9.7                            | 11.7 |
| England and Wales   |                  |              |                |               | 11.6                           | 12.5 |

The number of deaths and the death rates each year since 1939 are illustrated by the following graphs:

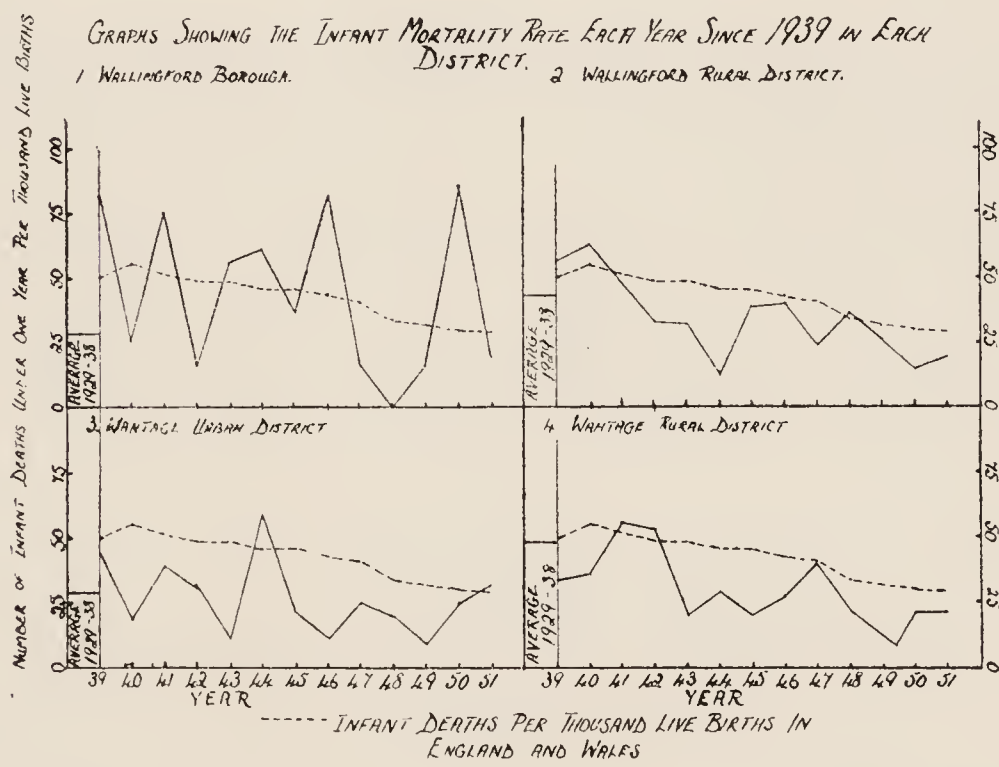


INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying during 1951 before attaining their first birthday and the Infant Mortality Rate per thousand live births for 1950 and 1951 are given below. Not much significance should be attached to the rates however, as the number of deaths involved is small.

| District            | Infants under 1 yr. of age dying |      |        |       | Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births |      |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------|--------|-------|---------------------------------------------|------|
|                     | 1950                             | 1951 | 1951   |       | 1950                                        | 1951 |
|                     | Total                            | Male | Female | Total |                                             |      |
| Wallingford Borough | 4                                | 1    | 0      | 1     | 85                                          | 19   |
| Wantage Urban       | 4                                | 2    | 2      | 4     | 25                                          | 32   |
| Wallingford Rural   | 4                                | 4    | 1      | 5     | 15                                          | 19   |
| Wantage Rural       | 6                                | 3    | 3      | 6     | 21                                          | 21   |
| Combined Districts  | 18                               | 10   | 6      | 16    | 25                                          | 22   |
| England and Wales   |                                  |      |        |       | 29.8                                        | 29.6 |

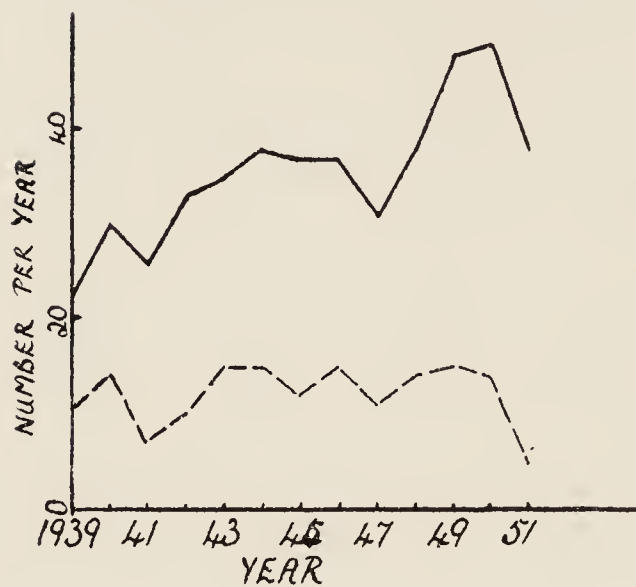
The following graphs show the trends in annual Infant Mortality Rates in each district since 1939.



Deaths from TUBERCULOSIS and other Communicable Diseases

Six deaths from tuberculosis (five pulmonary, one non-pulmonary) occurred in the combined districts during 1951. The death rate from tuberculosis in the combined districts was 0.18 per thousand population compared with a rate of 0.31 for England and Wales for the same period. The only death due to other communicable diseases was one due to whooping cough,

GRAPH SHOWING NUMBER OF PULMONARY  
TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND  
DEATHS IN THE COMBINED DISTRICTS  
SINCE 1939  
— NOTIFICATIONS  
-- DEATHS



## CANCER

The total annual number of deaths from cancer in the combined district has varied little during the last 13 years as will be evident from the following table and graph.

| Year | No. of deaths | Year | No. of deaths | Year | No. of deaths |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 1939 | 51            | 1944 | 56            | 1949 | 61            |
| 1940 | 42            | 1945 | 49            | 1950 | 62            |
| 1941 | 61            | 1946 | 47            | 1951 | 59            |
| 1942 | 63            | 1947 | 62            |      |               |
| 1943 | 57            | 1948 | 53            |      |               |

GRAPH SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM  
CANCER (ALL FORMS) ANNUALLY SINCE 1939  
IN THE COMBINED DISTRICTS



## VIOLENCE

Deaths from accidents, suicide and other violent causes numbered 11 during 1951. The following table gives the number of such deaths during the preceding years:—

| Year | No. of deaths | Year | No. of deaths | Year | No. of deaths |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 1939 | 19            | 1945 | 16            | 1950 | 16            |
| 1940 | 23            | 1946 | 15            | 1951 | 11            |
| 1942 | 16            | 1947 | 13            |      |               |
| 1943 | 22            | 1948 | 12            |      |               |
| 1944 | 15            | 1949 | 19            |      |               |

## MATERNAL DEATHS

The following table gives the annual number of deaths due to child-bearing, pregnancy and abortion in the combined districts since 1942:—

| Year | No. of deaths | Year | No. of deaths | Year | No. of deaths |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 1939 | 0             | 1944 | 0             | 1949 | 1             |
| 1940 | 0             | 1945 | 0             | 1950 | 0             |
| 1941 | 0             | 1946 | 1             | 1951 | 1             |
| 1942 | 0             | 1947 | 0             |      |               |
| 1943 | 0             | 1948 | 1             |      |               |

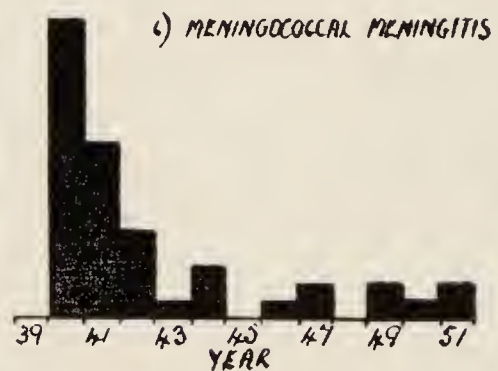
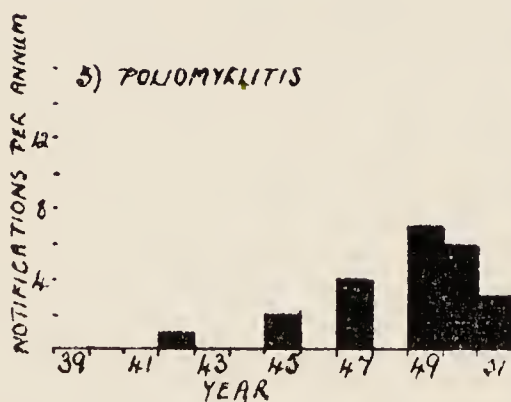
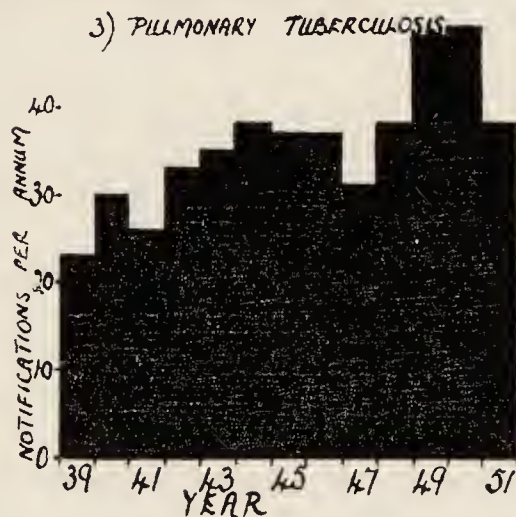
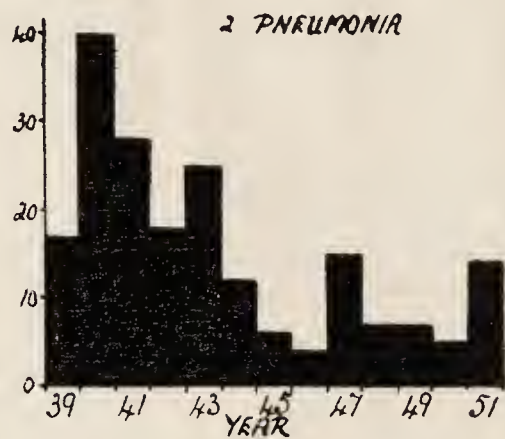
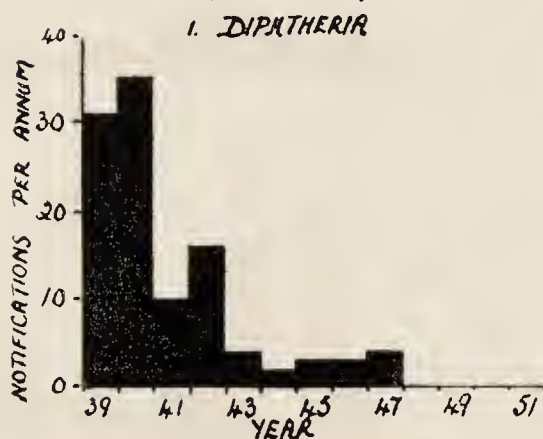
## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

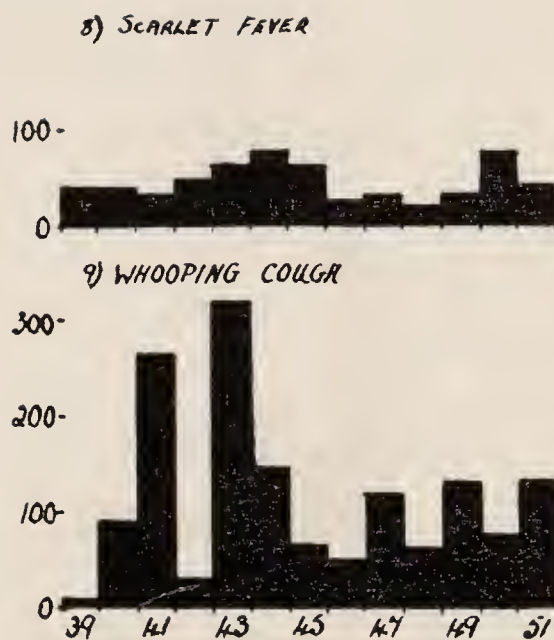
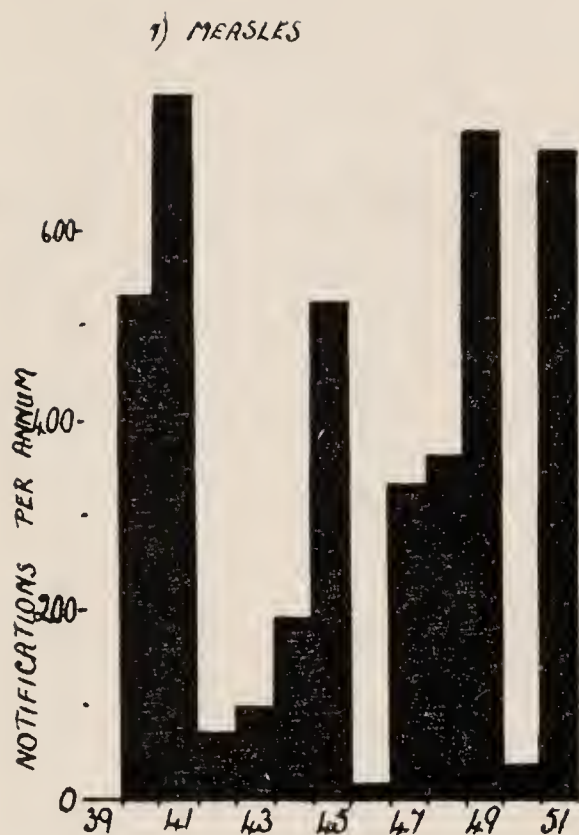
The number of notifications of communicable diseases received during 1951 was as shown below:

| Notifiable Disease           | Wallingford Borough | Wantage U.D. | Wallingford R.D. | Wantage R.D. | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| Measles                      | 52                  | 151          | 305              | 174          | 682   |
| Whooping Cough               | 2                   | 38           | 42               | 51           | 133   |
| Scarlet Fever                | 3                   | 14           | 10               | 14           | 41    |
| Dysentery                    | —                   | 1            | 19               | 8            | 28    |
| Pneumonia                    | —                   | —            | 4                | 10           | 14    |
| Meningococcal Meningitis     | —                   | 1            | 1                | —            | 2     |
| Poliomyelitis                | 1                   | —            | —                | 2            | 3     |
| Puerperal Pyrexia            | —                   | —            | 2                | —            | 2     |
| Erysipelas                   | —                   | —            | 1                | —            | 1     |
| Food Poisoning               | —                   | —            | —                | 1            | 1     |
| Tuberculosis (pulmonary)     | 2                   | 19           | 6                | 11           | 38    |
| Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) | —                   | 6            | 1                | 6            | 13    |
| Total                        | 60                  | 230          | 391              | 277          | 958   |

The following histograms give an indication of the annual incidence of certain notifiable diseases in the districts.

# HISTOGRAMS SHOWING THE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS IN THE COMBINED DISTRICTS EACH YEAR SINCE 1939





No case of diphtheria has been notified in the combined districts since 1947. This is undoubtedly due to the effectiveness of diphtheria immunisation. If however, the percentage of immunised children under one year of age fell appreciably, there would be a serious risk if this infection again becoming prevalent. Although diphtheria is now a comparatively uncommon disease the need for protecting infants against it is as great as ever.

The annual number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis has gradually increased in each of the four districts during the last 13 years. There were between 12 and 15 deaths a year in the combined districts until last year when the number dropped to 5. The figures involved however, are too small to be significant.

Poliomyelitis, although occurring with increasing frequency since 1939 has caused one death in the combined districts during that period.

# CAUSES OF DEATH, 1951

(REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURNS)

| Causes                                  | Wallingford Borough |   |       | Wantage U.D. |   |       | Wallingford R.D. |   |       | Wantage R.D. |   |       |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---|-------|--------------|---|-------|------------------|---|-------|--------------|---|-------|
|                                         | M                   | F | Total | M            | F | Total | M                | F | Total | M            | F | Total |
| Tuberculosis, respiratory               | —                   | — | —     | 1            | — | 1     | 1                | 1 | 2     | 1            | 1 | 2     |
| Tuberculosis, other                     | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | 1            | 1 | 1     |
| Syphilic disease                        | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | — | 0     |
| Diphtheria                              | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | — | 0     |
| Whooping Cough                          | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | 1                | 1 | 1     | —            | — | 1     |
| Meningococcal infections                | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | — | 0     |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                     | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | — | 0     |
| Measles                                 | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | — | 0     |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases  | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | — | 0     |
| Malignant neoplasms, stomach            | 1                   | 1 | —     | —            | — | —     | 5                | 1 | 6     | 3            | 3 | 6     |
| Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus     | —                   | — | —     | 1            | 1 | 2     | 1                | — | 1     | 3            | 1 | 4     |
| Malignant neoplasms, breast             | 2                   | 2 | —     | —            | 1 | 1     | —                | 2 | 2     | 2            | 2 | 7     |
| Malignant neoplasms, uterus             | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | 1 | 1     | —            | — | 1     |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 4                   | 2 | 6     | 3            | 4 | 7     | 8                | — | 8     | 4            | 6 | 10    |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | —                   | — | —     | —            | — | —     | —                | — | —     | —            | 1 | 1     |
| Diabetes                                | —                   | — | —     | —            | 1 | 1     | 1                | 1 | 2     | 3            | 3 | 6     |

|                                       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |     |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|
| the nervous system                    | 2  | 4  | 6  | 3  | 9  | 12 | 7  | 12 | 19  | 7  | 10 | 17  | 54  |
| Coronary disease, angina              | 6  | 2  | 8  | 7  | 6  | 13 | 11 | 6  | 17  | 10 | 6  | 16  | 54  |
| Hypertension with heart disease       | 1  |    | 1  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1  | 4   | 1  | 1  | 2   | 9   |
| Other heart diseases                  | 2  | 7  | 9  | 4  | 3  | 7  | 5  | 15 | 20  | 13 | 20 | 33  | 69  |
| Other circulatory diseases            | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1  |    | 1  | 3  | 2  | 5   | 8  | 4  | 12  | 21  |
| Influenza                             | 1  |    | 1  | 1  | 5  | 6  | 2  | 1  | 3   | 3  | 5  | 8   | 18  |
| Pneumonia                             | 2  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 7   | 5  | 2  | 7   | 19  |
| Bronchitis                            | 3  | 1  | 4  | 2  |    | 2  | 8  | 2  | 10  | 9  | 7  | 16  | 32  |
| Other diseases of respiratory system  |    |    | —  | 1  |    | 1  |    | 1  | 1   | 2  | 1  | 3   | 5   |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum         |    |    | —  |    |    | —  | 3  |    | 3   | 1  |    | 1   | 4   |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea    |    |    | —  | 1  |    | 1  |    | 1  | 1   | 1  |    | 1   | 3   |
| Nephritis and nephrosis               |    |    | —  |    |    | —  | 1  | 2  | 3   | 1  | 1  | 2   | 5   |
| Hyperplasia of prostate               | 2  |    | 2  |    |    | —  | 2  |    | 2   | 2  |    | 2   | 6   |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion       |    |    | —  |    |    | —  |    | 1  | 1   |    |    | —   | 1   |
| Congenital malformations              |    | 1  | 1  |    |    | —  |    |    | —   |    | 1  | 1   | 2   |
| Other defined or ill-defined diseases | 5  | 1  | 6  | 3  | 5  | 8  | 9  | 4  | 13  | 9  | 12 | 21  | 48  |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents               |    |    | —  |    |    | —  |    |    | —   | 1  |    | 1   | 1   |
| All other accidents                   |    |    | —  |    | 2  | 2  | 2  | 1  | 3   | 2  |    | 2   | 7   |
| Suicide                               |    |    | —  |    |    | —  | 2  |    | 2   |    |    | —   | 2   |
| Homicide and operations of war        |    |    | —  |    |    | —  | 1  |    | 1   |    |    | —   | 1   |
| All Causes                            | 29 | 24 | 53 | 20 | 39 | 69 | 79 | 50 | 138 | 86 | 88 | 174 | 434 |

# WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1951-52**

Councillor A. C. Lester (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. F. E. Simmons

Councillor Mrs. A. A. Strevens

Alderman H. Walters

Councillor E. C. Heal

Councillor J. O. Johnstone

Councillor A. L. Sheppherd

Councillor M. L. Whiteley

Councillor E. F. Woolford

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

C. R. Lawless, A.R.S.I.

I wish to thank Mr. Lawless for compiling information necessary for this report and for his general concern and interest in public health problems in the Borough.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

The water supply is obtained from five bore holes inside the Borough. Before distribution the water is chlorinated by means of an automatic chlorinator which regulates the amount of chlorine added. The results of bacteriological tests on 7 samples of water taken during 1951 were satisfactory (Grade 1). Similarly, a sample of water taken at source, before chlorination, was classed as satisfactory. No chemical tests were carried out.

1038 houses in the Borough possessed an internal piped water supply in 1951. No houses depended on an external water supply. 2 houses did not possess a piped water supply.

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

1037 houses in Wallingford in 1951 were in connection with the main sewerage system for the purpose of sewage disposal. One house possessed a cesspool and two had no drainage systems for sewage disposal.

The sewage disposal works consisted, and still consists of a sewage farm which is seriously inadequate, a nuisance to the public and a possible source of river pollution. The need for the erection of a new sewerage disposal works has become an urgent necessity.

No alterations occurred in the sewerage system during 1951.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION**

Refuse collection covering the whole Borough, occurred weekly. The refuse pit, situated off Wantage Road, was adequate and satisfactory and gave rise to no nuisance. Controlled tipping was in operation at the pit. An outbreak of fire occurred once.

## **RODENT CONTROL**

The control of rat infestation by baiting took place throughout the year as follows:—

| Premises       | Number baited |
|----------------|---------------|
| Council owned  | 27            |
| Business       | 10            |
| Private        | 68            |
| Sewer manholes | 60            |
| Others         | 200           |

## **NUISANCES**

The number of nuisances abated during 1951 was 21.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

2 premises which had been occupied by persons suffering from infectious conditions were disinfected during 1951.

## **MEAT INSPECTION**

No animal was slaughtered in the Borough during 1951.

## **MILK SUPPLIES**

Undesignated milk was supplied by one retailer in the Borough; T.T. milk by two; T.T. Pasteurised by three; Pasteurised milk by one and Channel Island milk by one. Whereas there were 7 dairies in the Borough in 1950 there were only two in 1951.

## **ICE CREAM**

13 premises were licenced for the sale of ice cream in 1951 and 3 were licenced for its manufacture. 12 premises were inspected during the year. No laboratory tests were carried out on ice cream retailed in Wallingford.

## **CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS**

There were 15 catering establishments (including hotels with catering licences) in Wallingford in 1951 compared with 9 in 1950. The standard of hygiene in these establishments was considered satisfactory.

As part of a Clean Food Campaign the Council offered a notice for display to each food shop, the wording of the notice being:—

“In the interests of hygiene you are requested to keep your dog under control while in these premises”.

## **FOOD INSPECTIONS**

The following items of food were condemned during 1951:—tinned fruit—49lbs. 12 ozs.; tinned vegetables—9lbs. 11ozs.; tinned fish—4lbs. 8ozs.; tinned jam—9lbs. 12ozs.; tinned milk—64 tins (59lbs.); tinned meat—53 lbs. 4 ozs.; tinned ham—207lbs.; wet fish—105lbs.; butchers meat—76 lbs.; tinned chicken—3 lbs. 14 ozs.

## **BAKEHOUSES**

Four of the five bakehouses in the Borough were inspected during 1951 and found satisfactory.

## **SHOPS**

The Shops Act of 1950 came into force during 1951. The number of shops in Wallingford (including hotels open to non-residents) was 84.

## **HOUSING DEFECTS**

44 inspections of housing defects were made during 1951. There was no need to serve statutory notices in a single instance, as the 25 houses which had defects were repaired in response to informal action.

## **OVERCROWDING**

It is not known how many cases of overcrowding may have been in the Borough. Attempts were made to alleviate any known instances by offering new housing accommodation.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The number of licensed moveable dwellings in the Borough in 1951 was 2.

## HOUSING

51 permanent houses (41 Council, 10 private enterprise) were erected in Wallingford during 1951, compared with 34 in 1950 (25 Council, 9 private enterprise). No temporary dwellings were erected.

The number of families on the waiting list at the end of 1951 was 205, whereas at the end of 1950 it was 180. Selection of tenants for new council houses was based on a points scheme.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No person was dealt with under the National Assistance Act, 1948, during 1951 (i.e.—removal to suitable premises of persons suffering from chronic disease, or who are infirm or physically handicapped and are living under insanitary conditions).

No person was dealt with under section 50 of the same act (i.e.—disposal of the body where it appears no suitable arrangements have been or are being made other than by the authority).

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The number of factories in Wallingford in 1951 was 17, 12 of which were inspected during the year.

There were 30 workshops, 22 of which were inspected. The following table given in accordance with the Factories Act, 1937, gives details of inspections made, and defects found, during 1951.

### (A) INSPECTIONS

| Premises                                                                                                            | No. on<br>Register | Inspections | Number<br>Written<br>notices | of<br>Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Factories in which<br>Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are<br>to be enforced by the Local<br>Authorities                | 30                 | 22          | —                            | —                             |
| 2. Factories not included in (1)<br>in which section 6 is enforced<br>by the Local Authority                        | 17                 | 12          | —                            | —                             |
| 3. Other premises in which Section<br>7 is enforced by the Local<br>Authority (excluding out-<br>workers' premises) | —                  | —           | —                            | —                             |
| Total                                                                                                               | 47                 | 34          | —                            | —                             |

(B) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars                                                                      | Found | Remedied | —Referred—           |                      | No. pros-<br>ecutions<br>instituted |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                  |       |          | To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |                                     |
| Want of cleanliness                                                              | 1     | 1        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Overcrowding                                                                     | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Unreasonable temperature                                                         | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Inadequate ventilation                                                           | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Ineffective drainage of<br>floors                                                | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Sanitary Conveniences                                                            |       |          |                      |                      |                                     |
| a) Insufficient                                                                  | 1     | 1        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| b) Unsuitable/defective                                                          | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| c) Not separate for sexes                                                        | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Other offences against the<br>Act not including offences<br>relating to outwork) | —     | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |
| Total                                                                            | 2     | 2        | —                    | —                    | —                                   |

# WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1951-52**

Councillor J. H. Clements (Chairman)

Councillor H. T. Meritt (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. M. Robbins

Councillor A. W. Barlow

Councillor J. M. Dipper

Councillor C. Evetts

Councillor C. Gardner

Councillor J. E. Lay

Councillor A. B. Salvetti

Councillor T. B. Wigley

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

Sanitary Inspector: C. J. Gayfer, M.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: L. Sproston, M.R.S.I.

I wish to thank Mr. Gayfer for supplying information essential for this report and for the efficient and prompt manner in which both he and Mr. Sproston deal with local public health problems.

## WATER SUPPLIES

All the villages in the district, with the exception of Little Wittenham, were supplied with main water supplies. All had a common source of supply except Moulsoford, which was supplied from South Oxford Supply.

The raw water was chlorinated before distribution, an automatic chlorinator being used. Five samples of water, taken at source for bacteriological examination, were reported as satisfactory by the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

The quantity of water was adequate for the needs of the district. Approximately 3,333 houses possessed internal or external piped water, and about 287 dwelling houses had no piped water supply. Details of the number of houses in each parish supplied with water from the main supply are given below:—

| Parish                 | Est. Pop.<br>1950 | Total No.<br>of houses<br>1951 | Est. No.<br>of houses<br>supplied<br>with water | Est. Pop.<br>supplied<br>with water |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aston Tirrold          | 361               | 87                             | 74                                              | 300                                 |
| Aston Upthorne         | 130               | 38                             | 30                                              | 104                                 |
| Brightwell-cum-Sotwell | 984               | 263                            | 200                                             | 720                                 |
| Cholsey (ex. B.M.H.)   | 1995              | 546                            | 500                                             | 1840                                |
| Didcot                 | 8577              | 1960                           | 1950                                            | 8540                                |
| East Hagbourne         | 763               | 227                            | 200                                             | 670                                 |
| West Hagbourne         | 247               | 63                             | 60                                              | 235                                 |
| North Moreton          | 310               | 71                             | 59                                              | 260                                 |
| South Moreton          | 397               | 107                            | 100                                             | 370                                 |
| Moulsoford             | 292               | 78                             | 60                                              | 220                                 |
| Little Wittenham       | 93                | 26                             | —                                               | —                                   |
| Long Wittenham         | 523               | 154                            | 100                                             | 350                                 |
| Total                  | 14672             | 3620                           | 3333                                            | 13609                               |

## SEWERAGE

The only new sewage disposal works commenced during 1951 was at East Hagbourne. This comprised of the laying of sewers and the erection of a pumping station for the pumping of sewage to the existing Didcot Sewage Disposal Works.

Didcot, parts of the villages of East Hagbourne, South Morton, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Long Wittenham were supplied with a main sewerage system. Cholsey, which had a population of over 2,000 had no main sewerage system.

Approximately 2,192 dwelling houses in the district were in connection with a main sewerage for sewage disposal purposes in 1951; whereas 1,428 houses had either a cesspool or had no drainage system.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection was carried out in all the villages twice weekly, two collecting vehicles being used. The refuse pit at Long Wittenham was considered adequate and satisfactory, although rat infestation of the pit had to be dealt with from time to time by the Rodent Officer. Fires and unauthorised tipping occurred sporadically. Refuse was covered with soil after it was deposited.

**RODENT CONTROL**

Baiting for the control of rat infestation took place as shown in the following table.

| Premises       | No. Baited |
|----------------|------------|
| Council owned  | 5          |
| Business       | 10         |
| Private        | 370        |
| Sewer Manholes | 20         |
| Others         | 10         |

**NUISANCES**

50 public health nuisances were abated during 1951 in response to informal representation by the council's officials. No legal proceedings had to be taken.

**DISINFECTION OF PREMISES**

12 premises were disinfected during the year after occupation by persons suffering from tuberculosis or cancer.

**MEAT INSPECTION**

The Regional Slaughterhouse at Cholsey was re-opened at the beginning of June, 1951, after it had been altered, extended and improved.

The premises were visited several times weekly by your meat inspectors who inspected the carcasses and the conditions at the slaughterhouse. 11,659 lbs. of meat and 11,571 lbs. of offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year.

The figures in the following table represent the number of animals slaughtered during a period of seven months.

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

|                                                                         | Cattle<br>(ex. Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep and<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------|--------|--------------------|------|
| Number Killed                                                           | 1403                 | 265  | 438    | 1596               | 70   |
| Number inspected                                                        | 1403                 | 265  | 438    | 1596               | 70   |
| <b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>                                 |                      |      |        |                    |      |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                               | 2                    | 7    | 0      | 11                 | 2    |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                     | 259                  | 155  | 1      | 43                 | 13   |
| % of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 19                   | 61   | .02    | 3                  | 21   |
| <b>Tuberculosis only</b>                                                |                      |      |        |                    |      |
| Whole Carcasses condemned                                               | 8                    | 6    | 4      | 0                  | 0    |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                     | 93                   | 121  | 1      | 0                  | 2    |
| % of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis                        | 7                    | 48   | 1      | 0                  | 3    |

## MILK SUPPLIES

The number of dairies supplying milk and the designation of milk retailed in the district during 1950 and 1951 were as follows:—

| Designation of Milk     | No. of Dairies Retailing Milk |      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------|
|                         | 1950                          | 1951 |
| Undesignated Milk       | 3                             | 1    |
| T.T. Milk               | 4                             | 3    |
| T.T. Pasteurised Milk   | 2                             | 2    |
| Pasteurised Milk        | 2                             | 2    |
| Channel Island Milk     | 1                             | 1    |
| Total Number of Dairies | 9                             | 6    |

There was only one small producer-retailer selling undesignated milk in the district in 1951. Most of the milk retailed was pasteurised. All the nine samples of pasteurised and T.T. milk taken were reported satisfactory to the Methylene Blue (cleanliness) and the Phosphatase (efficiency of pasteurisation) Tests. No samples of milk were taken for the purpose of detecting the presence of *M. tuberculosis*.

## ICE CREAM

Ice Cream was manufactured by only one of the three premises registered in 1951 for its manufacture. These premises, as well as the 29 shops and cafes registered for the sale of ice cream were kept under regular supervision. 8 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

|         |          |           |          |         |
|---------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Grade I | Grade II | Grade III | Grade IV | Grade V |
| 6       | 2        | 0         | 0        | 0       |

## CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The 8 restaurants and cafes in the district were inspected regularly throughout the year. Notice had to be served in one instance before the cafe was cleaned. 7 hotels had catering licenses and their kitchens were found satisfactory on inspection.

No clean food campaign was undertaken during 1951.

## BAKEHOUSES

All 5 bakehouses in the district in 1951 were inspected, 3 being considered satisfactory. One of the others closed down voluntarily, while the second came under new ownership and was later considered satisfactory.

## FOOD FACTORIES

In 1951 there were 2 food factories in the district—one for canning fruit and the other for packing eggs. Both firms were approached to provide adequate supplies of hot water for hand washing.

## OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Food shops in the district were kept under regular supervision and notices were served on two food retailers for contravening Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 (i.e. unsatisfactory standard of cleanliness in the premises). A warning was also sent to one tradesman for contravening Section 4(a) of the bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 (i.e. protection of food from contamination by dirt, filth, rodents, flies, insects, etc.).

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following amount of food was condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1951:—27 lbs. 11 ozs. pork brawn; 109½ lbs. pork luncheon meat; 4½ lbs. apricot puree; 134 lbs. sieved apples; 6 lbs. tomatoes; 3 lbs. jam; 17 lbs. 9 ozs. plums; 12 tins milk; 47 lbs. corned beef; 12 lbs. minced beef loaf; 146 lbs. 2 ozs. tinned ham; 1 lb. 4½ ozs. tomato soup; 2 stones dabs; 1 lb. 3 ozs. peas; 2 lbs. pilchards; 1 lb. 14 ozs. apricots; 2 lbs. 3½ ozs. salmon; 3 lbs. 14½ ozs. beans; 14 ozs. sardines; 1 lb. sausages; 1 lb. 3½ ozs. beetroot; 1 lb. stewed steak; 10 ozs. vegetable salad; 8½ ozs. ketchup; 1 kilo. peach pulp; 4¾ lbs. tea, 1 lb. broth; 4¾ lbs. grapes; 2½ stones skate.

## THE SHOPS ACT 1950

This act, dealing with the conditions of employment in shops, came into force during 1951. An application was made to the County Council to delegate some of its functions under this act.

The number of shops in the district, including hotels open to non-residents, was 107.

## HOUSING DEFECTS AND OVERCROWDING

195 inspections of housing defects were made, statutory notices being served in 19 instances. Repairs were carried out on 51 houses in response to action taken by your officials.

No figures can be given for statutory overcrowding, but when individual cases were discovered, an effort was made to deal with them through the Council's housing scheme.

## HOUSING

The shortage of dwelling houses in the district remained a great problem throughout the year. Unfortunately, much distress and unhappiness was caused by the severe shortage of separate homes for individual families. There were 775 applicants on the Council's housing list in December 1950, and 794 in December 1951. This increase occurred in spite of the fact that each application had to be renewed annually.

Further details of the housing situation in the district are given in the following table:—

| Parish                 | Total No. of<br>houses Dec. '51 | No. new houses completed 1951 |                       |       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|                        |                                 | Council                       | Private<br>Enterprise | Total |
| Aston Tirrold          | 87                              | —                             | —                     | —     |
| Aston Upthorne         | 38                              | —                             | —                     | —     |
| Brightwell-cum-Sotwell | 263                             | 6                             | —                     | 6     |
| Cholsey                | 546                             | 4                             | 2                     | 6     |
| Didcot (ex. Barracks)  | 1,960                           | 44                            | 8                     | 52    |
| East Hagbourne         | 227                             | 8                             | 10                    | 18    |
| West Hagbourne         | 63                              | —                             | 1                     | 1     |
| North Moreton          | 71                              | —                             | —                     | —     |
| South Moreton          | 107                             | 4                             | 2                     | 6     |
| Moulsford              | 78                              | 2                             | —                     | 2     |
| Little Wittenham       | 26                              | —                             | —                     | —     |
| Long Wittenham         | 154                             | 8                             | 1                     | 9     |
| Total                  | 3620                            | 76                            | 24                    | 100   |

86 new houses (70 Council and 16 by private enterprise) were completed during 1950.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

68 moveable dwellings were licensed by the Council in 1951.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No statutory action was taken by the Council under section 47 of the above act (i.e. securing the necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from chronic disease, old age, infirmity or physical handicap and are living under insanitary conditions).

One case was treated under section 50 of the act (i.e. disposal of the body where it appears no suitable arrangements are being made other than by the Council).

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Each of the 40 factories in the district was inspected during the year. Details of the inspections made and the defects found are given in the following table:—

#### (A) INSPECTIONS

| Premises                                                                                              | No. on.<br>Register | Inspections | Number<br>Written<br>notices | of<br>Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority                 | 4                   | 8           | —                            | —                             |
| 2. Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority                 | 36                  | 70          | 3                            | —                             |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises) | —                   | —           | —                            | —                             |
| Total                                                                                                 | 40                  | 78          | 3                            | —                             |

#### (B) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars                                                                 | Found | Remedied | Referred<br>To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector | No. pros-<br>ecutions<br>instituted |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Want of Cleanliness                                                         | 1     | 1        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Overcrowding                                                                | —     | —        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Unreasonable Temperature                                                    | 1     | —        | 1                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Inadequate Ventilation                                                      | —     | —        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Ineffective drainage of Floors                                              | —     | —        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Sanitary Conveniences                                                       |       |          |                                  |                      |                                     |
| a) Insufficient                                                             | 1     | 1        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| b) Unsuitable/Defective                                                     | 1     | —        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| c) Not separate for sexes                                                   | —     | —        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | —     | —        | —                                | —                    | —                                   |
| Total                                                                       | 4     | 2        | 1                                | —                    | —                                   |

# WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1951-52**

Councillor J. N. Nichols (Chairman)

Councillor D. J. Berhens

Councillor R. H. G. Humphries

Councillor J. W. C. James

Councillor J. L. Sale

Councillor O. S. Walter

Councillor H. T. Evans

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

Sanitary Inspector: L. Oliver, M.R.S.I.

I wish to thank Mr. Oliver for supplying the information for this report and for his ready co-operation in all health matters in the Urban District.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### (a) Source of Supply:

Water for distribution was obtained from boreholes at the Manor Road Pumping Station Site. There was no change in the source of water supply during the year. The proposal to augment the supply with heavily chlorinated and subsequently dechlorinated water from the Edgehill Spring Supply was abandoned. It was decided that an attempt should be made to increase the supply from the Manor Road boreholes.

### (b) Distribution:

1,349 houses in the district possessed an internal supply of main water in 1951 compared with 1,314 in 1950. 121 houses were served by outdoor standpipes and there were 51 houses in 1951, (53 in 1950), which did not receive water from the main supply system.

104 lineal yards of 3" water main were laid to serve a new housing estate at Grove Wick Green in the Rural District.

### (c) Sampling:

14 samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination during 1951. The results were;

| Source of Supply           | No. of Samples | Results                 |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Tap water from mains       | 2              | Satisfactory            |
| Water in service reservoir | 2              | Satisfactory            |
| Edgehill Spring Supply     | 8              | 3 slightly contaminated |
| Private wells              | 2              | 1 heavily contaminated  |

The heavily contaminated private well water ceased to be used for drinking or domestic purpose.

The six samples of water sent for chemical analysis were reported to be satisfactory.

## SEWERAGE

The sewage disposal works, situated at Grove, functioned satisfactorily, but difficulty was again experienced in the drying out of sludge. Samples of sewage effluent were taken regularly by Thames Conservancy Board representatives, but no complaints were received.

The following table gives the number of houses connected with the main sewerage system in the Urban District.

|                                                    |      |      |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Number of houses—                                  | 1950 | 1951 |
| (i) connected with main sewers for sewage disposal | 1401 | 1429 |
| (ii) with cesspools for sewage disposal            | 25   | 25   |
| (iii) with no drains for sewage disposal           | 16   | 16   |

## REFUSE COLLECTION

House refuse was collected weekly in the district by means of a Dennis Refuse Collection Vehicle. Trade refuse was collected monthly.

All refuse was disposed of by means of crude tipping at the Grove Street refuse tip.

## RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control treatment occurred as follows during 1951:

| Site                                   | Number of baits laid down                                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council owned property                 | 2                                                                      |
| Business premises                      | 4                                                                      |
| Private houses                         | 37                                                                     |
| Sewer manholes                         | 64                                                                     |
| (approx. 10% test baiting bi-annually) |                                                                        |
| Refuse tip                             | (Treatment twice annually by the War Agriculture Executive Committee). |

## NUISANCES

The number of nuisances abated during 1951 was 65.

## DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

17 premises were disinfected at the request of occupiers, or following the removal of a person suffering from an infectious disease.

## MILK SUPPLIES

The 2 milk retailers in the district retailed pasteurised and tuberculin tested milk. The one retail dairy in the district was inspected regularly.

No laboratory tests were carried out on samples of milk.

## ICE CREAM

11 premises were registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream and one premises was licensed for the manufacture of ice cream. All the above premises were inspected, a total of 28 visits being made.

No ice cream samples were taken.

## CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There were 6 catering establishments including hotels with catering licences in the district in 1951. All these premises were inspected regularly and the standard of hygiene in them was considered moderately good.

No clean food campaign was undertaken during the year.

## FOOD INSPECTIONS

The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered voluntarily:—

Meat: 1 pig's head; 1 pig's pluck (tuberculosis).

Other Food: 2 tins salmon; 2 tins French pork and beef gelatine; 2 tins shoulder ham; 10 tins peas; 9 tins plums; 3 tins evaporated milk; 2 tins skimmed milk; 3 tins baked beans; 2 tins Dutch luncheon suithorst; 1 tin jam; 1 tin damsons; 12 tins luncheon meat; 6 tins red salmon; 1 tin apricots; 1 tin soup 1 tin pears; 1 tin pilchards; 2 tins minced beef loaf; 1 tin vegetable soup; 1 tin tomatoes; 3 tins potted meat; 1 tin Swedish brislings; 1 tin spaghetti and sausage; 1 tin rhubarb; 10 tins apples; 3 tins herrings; 12 lbs. corned beef; 40½ lbs. cooked ham; 6¼ lbs. prunes.

## BAKEHOUSES

17 inspections were carried out on the 4 bakehouses in the district. Informal action was taken in one to have the walls and ceiling cleaned and lime washed.

## SHOPS

There were 94 shops in the district. This figure included hotels open to non-residents. 23 inspections of shops were carried out.

## HOUSING

The shortage of housing accommodation in the Urban District is shown by the following table:—

|                                                       | 1950 | 1951 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Number of permanent houses erected by Local Authority | 10   | 35   |
| „ „ permanent houses erected by Private Enterprise    | 6    | 32   |
| „ „ temporary houses erected                          | 0    | 0    |
| „ „ families on the Council's housing lists           | 267  | 259  |

The selection of tenants is made primarily by means of a points system.

## HOUSING DEFECTS

106 inspections of housing defects were made in 1951, (111 in 1950); 74 houses were repaired (69 in 1950), and no statutory notices had to be served.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

One caravan, occupied by the owner of the caravan and the site, was licensed during 1951.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No person was dealt with under Section 47 of the above Act during 1951 but one person was dealt with under Section 50 of the Act.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following table, presented in accordance with Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, gives details of the number of factories in the district and of inspections made.

### (A) Inspections:

| Premises                                                                                              | No. on.<br>Register | Number<br>Inspections | Number<br>Written<br>notices | of<br>Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities               | 37                  | 39                    | —                            | —                             |
| 2. Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority                 | 18                  | 24                    | —                            | —                             |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises) | 2                   | —                     | —                            | —                             |
| Total                                                                                                 | 57                  | 63                    | —                            | —                             |

(B) Cases in which defects were found:— Nil,

# SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING 1951

|                                                         |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of different premises inspected .....               | 331 |
| „ inspections made .....                                | 575 |
| „ complaints received .....                             | 71  |
| „ defects or nuisances discovered .....                 | 68  |
| „ notices served (i) Informal .....                     | 68  |
| „ notices served (ii) Formal .....                      | —   |
| „ defects or nuisances abated .....                     | 65  |
| comprising of—                                          |     |
| W.C.s, privies, sink wastes, etc. ....                  | 22  |
| Drains or cesspools .....                               | 34  |
| Pigs and other animals .....                            | 3   |
| Impure or insufficient water .....                      | 1   |
| Unclean houses .....                                    | 1   |
| Overcrowding .....                                      | —   |
| Insanitary accumulations .....                          | 4   |
| No. of premises disinfected .....                       | 17  |
| „ water samples taken for bacteriological tests .....   | 14  |
| „ water samples taken for chemical analysis .....       | 6   |
| „ houses connected with water supply .....              | 2   |
| „ surrenders of unsound food .....                      | 15  |
| „ conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s .....          | 6   |
| „ inspections of milkshops and dairies .....            | 6   |
| „ inspections of premises retailing ice cream .....     | 12  |
| „ inspections of premises manufacturing ice cream ..... | 16  |
| „ inspections of catering establishments .....          | 11  |
| „ inspections of bakehouses .....                       | 17  |
| „ piggeries inspected .....                             | 4   |

# WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1951—52**

Councillor W. J. Smith (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. W. K. Lay (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. N. E. Abraham

Councillor J. H. Andersen

Councillor R. J. Beasant

Councillor J. E. A. Betts

Councillor H. S. H. Burdett-Coutts

Councillor J. W. Dunsden

Councillor Lady Agnes Eyston

Councillor Miss C. I. Green

Councillor Mrs. H. Knight

Councillor E. B. Rivers

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

Sanitary Inspector: H. Rosser, M.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: S. D. Crowle, M.R.S.I.

I wish to thank Mr. Rosser for not only supplying information essential to this report, but also for the efficient manner in which he has carried out his public health duties in the district.

## **WATER SUPPLIES**

### **(a) Existing Supplies 1951**

Piped water was supplied to all the villages in the Wantage Rural District except Beedon, Chilton, Compton, East Ilsley, Hampstead Norris, Peasemore and Upton. It is hoped that all these villages will possess main piped water supply before the end of 1952.

### **(b) Changes during 1951.**

22 miles of water mains were laid down in the parishes of Beedon, Peasemore and Compton. A re-enforced concrete reservoir of 130,000 gallons capacity was constructed at North Stanmore.

### **(c) Water Sampling**

70 samples of public supply water taken from taps, were found satisfactory on bacteriological examination. Another 10 samples gave evidence of slight contamination and remedial measures, including increasing the degree of chlorination, were taken to make the supplies safe.

4 of the 10 samples of water taken from wells and small private supplies were found to be contaminated. Appropriate measures were taken in these instances also.

Chemical analysis of the Blewbury supply of water was reported to be satisfactory (except for a moderate degree of hardness).

### **(d) Treatment of Raw Water:—**

All the raw water, except that in the Blewbury Scheme, was automatically chlorinated before distribution. The degree of chlorination remained constant independent of the rate of flow.

### **(e) Distribution:—**

2,006 dwelling houses, (population 9,433) were served with main water supplies in 1951. Another 132 houses (population 759) had main water supplied to nearby standpipes. 2013 houses (population 4399) received no main water supplies. More detailed information is given in the following table.

**Table giving Population, Housing and Water Supply in the  
Parishes of the Wantage Rural District in 1951**

| Parish           | Area<br>in Acres | Pop.  | Total<br>No. of<br>Houses | No. of<br>Council<br>Houses | No. houses<br>Supplied<br>with Main<br>Water |        | Main<br>Sewer-<br>age<br>System<br>in<br>Parish |
|------------------|------------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                  |                  |       |                           |                             | Direct                                       | S/pipe |                                                 |
| Ardington        | 2693             | 443   | 129                       | —                           | 74                                           | —      | Yes                                             |
| East Challow     | 1657             | 546   | 170                       | 30                          | 159                                          | —      | Yes                                             |
| West Challow     | 1070             | 177   | 51                        | 8                           | 27                                           | 9      |                                                 |
| Childrey         | 2929             | 463   | 139                       | 32                          | 79                                           | —      | Yes                                             |
| Denchworth       | 1041             | 174   | 52                        | 10                          | 14                                           | 27     |                                                 |
| Goosey           | 946              | 117   | 36                        | 8                           | 6                                            | 17     |                                                 |
| Grove            | 2513             | 1404  | 301                       | 44                          | 266                                          | —      | Yes                                             |
| East Hanney      | 2200             | 481   | 134                       | 20                          | 72                                           | 13     |                                                 |
| West Hanney      | 1333             | 371   | 106                       | 20                          | 50                                           | 9      |                                                 |
| East Hendred     | 3198             | 1095  | 347                       | 44                          | 208                                          | —      | Yes                                             |
| West Hendred     | 2002             | 297   | 86                        | 16                          | 54                                           | 18     |                                                 |
| Letcombe Regis   | 2155             | 416   | 134                       | 32                          | 84                                           | —      | Yes                                             |
| Letcombe Bassett | 1631             | 147   | 53                        | 8                           | 28                                           | —      |                                                 |
| Lockinge         | 3763             | 251   | 81                        | —                           | 48                                           | —      | Yes                                             |
| Sparsholt        | 3329             | 263   | 79                        | 18                          | 36                                           | —      |                                                 |
| Aldworth         | 1886             | 207   | 63                        | 8                           | 19                                           | 18     |                                                 |
| Beedon           | 2096             | 331   | 102                       | 4                           | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| Blewbury         | 4246             | 826   | 239                       | 32                          | 160                                          | —      |                                                 |
| Brightwalton     | 2054             | 274   | 91                        | 12                          | 58                                           | 8      |                                                 |
| Catmore          | 710              | 60    | 20                        | —                           | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| Chaddleworth     | 3400             | 451   | 129                       | 20                          | 58                                           | —      |                                                 |
| Chilton          | 1448             | 607   | 168                       | 4                           | 100                                          | —      | Soon                                            |
| Compton          | 3803             | 764   | 231                       | 40                          | —                                            | 8      | Soon                                            |
| Farnborough      | 1886             | 111   | 34                        | 4                           | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| Fawley           | 2190             | 159   | 50                        | 8                           | 17                                           | —      |                                                 |
| Hampstead Norris | 4479             | 660   | 213                       | 20                          | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| Harwell          | 2503             | 1825  | 417                       | 44                          | 260                                          | —      | Yes                                             |
| Hermitage        | 1482             | 544   | 162                       | —                           | 89                                           | —      |                                                 |
| East Ilsley      | 3017             | 419   | 120                       | 22                          | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| West Ilsley      | 3037             | 263   | 86                        | 4                           | 40                                           | 5      |                                                 |
| Peasemore        | 2049             | 186   | 61                        | 2                           | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| Upton            | 1413             | 249   | 73                        | 14                          | —                                            | —      |                                                 |
| Total            | 74181            | 14591 | 4151                      | 528                         | 2006                                         | 132    |                                                 |

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The Compton Sewerage Scheme was commenced and half the work completed during 1951. When completed, it will be capable of dealing with about 30,000 gallons of crude sewage daily.

49 new connections were made with sewers in the district.

The following villages were served by main sewage disposal systems:—Ardington, East Challow, Childrey, Grove, East Hendred, Letcombe Regis, Lockinge and Harwell.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION**

Refuse was collected fortnightly throughout the district, except in a housing estate near Wantage, where it was collected weekly. The refuse was disposed of by a system of controlled tipping at refuse tips at Upton, East Ilsley and Sparsholt. All the tips were considered satisfactory and adequate.

## **RODENT CONTROL**

There was no change in this service throughout the year, one operator being employed under supervision of the Health Department for the whole district. In addition to the 638 known infestations dealt with in the district, the Council's refuse tips, sewers and sewage works were treated monthly as a routine measure.

Baiting for the control of rat infestation occurred as follows:—

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Council owned property  | 128 |
| Business premises       | 2   |
| Private premises        | 408 |
| Sewers and sewage works | 68  |
| Others                  | 32  |
| <hr/>                   |     |
| TOTAL                   | 638 |
| <hr/>                   |     |

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION OF PREMISES**

4 premises were disinfected on request following the removal of patients suffering from infectious conditions.

At the request of the Medical Officer, 47 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with infectious diseases.

## **MEAT INSPECTION**

No slaughterhouse was used as such in the district during 1951.

## **ICE CREAM**

There were 32 premises registered for the sale of ice cream in the district; 1 premises being registered for the first time.

No premises were registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

No samples of ice cream were submitted to laboratory tests.

## MILK SUPPLIES

The number of dairies and the number of retailers of various types of milk in the district in 1950 and 1951 were.

|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Total number of dairies                  | 8  |
| Number of milk retailers in the district | 10 |
| Number retailing undesignated milk       | 2  |
| "    "    T.T. milk                      | 8  |
| "    "    T.T. pasteurised milk          | 3  |
| "    "    Pasteurised milk               | 3  |
| "    "    Channel Island milk            | 0  |

## CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Every one of the 73 public houses and cafes in the district were inspected. Informal action was taken in respect of several public houses.

A copy of 'A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FOOD HANDLERS' was sent to all the food shops, restaurants and inns in the district.

## BAKEHOUSES

A total of 31 inspections were made on the 27 bakehouses in the district. No written notices had to be issued.

## FOOD INSPECTION

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of the following foods surrendered by private traders:

54 lbs. corned beef; 16¼ lbs. bacon; 9 lbs. tinned meat; 96 lbs. ox kidneys; 2¼ lbs. tinned milk.

## HOUSING

The erection of new houses forms one of the most important duties of a local authority while the present shortage of houses exists. The selection of tenants, based on the need of each applicant, required the submittance to the Selection Committee of a great deal of detailed information collected by the Public Health Officials.

26 permanent houses and 47 temporary dwellings were let by the council during 1951. Their location was as follows:

| Parish.          | Permanent Houses | Temporary Dwellings |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Aldworth         | 4                | —                   |
| Brightwalton     | 2                | —                   |
| Chaddleworth     | 4                | —                   |
| Denchworth       | 2                | —                   |
| East Challow     | 4                | 20                  |
| Grove            | 4                | —                   |
| West Hendred     | 4                | —                   |
| Upton            | 2                | —                   |
| Hampstead Norris | —                | 27                  |
| Total            | 26               | 47                  |

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list in December, 1950, was 525, while in December, 1951, it was 550.

**SHOPS ACT, 1950.**

94 visits were made to the 46 shops in the district. These visits were made for the purposes of registration, issuing condemnation certificates and inspections under the Foods and Drugs Act and food byelaws.

**MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

20 moveable dwellings were licensed; a licence was refused in one instance only. The license for the permanent caravan site at Blewbury was modified so as to allow another 30 caravans to be stationed on the site.

Mr. Rosser states that the control of moveable dwellings has become increasingly difficult during the post-war years. The shortage of housing accommodation has made many young couples choose these types of homes as a temporary expedient to avoid living in rooms, or with parents or in-laws. In many instances the caravans are unsuitable for all-the-year round occupation and in others, especially where there are young children, considerable hardships and even ill-health may be experienced by members of the family. Members of the Council have expressed their concern over the early rehousing of some of these families, but many of the occupants of caravans have been in the district a short time compared with many other applicants on the Council's housing list.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948**

The Council took action under Section 47 of the above Act in respect of one person during 1951. This section requires the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises.

The person removed was an old lady of over 80 years of age. Living alone under insanitary conditions, she was unable to do much in the house and was incapable of looking after herself. There was always the danger that she might set herself and the premises on fire and she suffered from mild hallucinations. She received no help from others and she would not enter suitable accommodation voluntarily. An Order of the Court was obtained for her removal to suitable premises for a period of three months. This order has been renewed at three-monthly intervals since then. She was treated in hospitals for the first two months but was later removed to 'Part 3' accommodation.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS**

The following table, furnished as required by Section 128(3) of the Factories Act 1937 gives details of the number of factories in the district and of inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health.

**(A) INSPECTIONS**

| Premises                                                                                              | No. on.<br>Register | Number<br>Inspections | Number<br>Written<br>notices | of<br>Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities               | 16                  | 19                    | 0                            | 0                             |
| 2. Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority                     | 36                  | 44                    | 2                            | 0                             |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises) | 0                   | 0                     | 0                            | 0                             |
| Total                                                                                                 | 52                  | 63                    | 2                            | 0                             |

**(B) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

| Particulars                                                                  | Found | Remedied | —Referred—        |                   | No. prosecutions instituted |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                                                              |       |          | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |                             |
| Want of cleanliness                                                          | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Overcrowding                                                                 | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Unreasonable temperature                                                     | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Inadequate ventilation                                                       | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Ineffective drainage of floors                                               | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Sanitary Conveniences                                                        |       |          |                   |                   |                             |
| a) Insufficient                                                              | 1     | 1        | —                 | 1                 | —                           |
| b) Unsuitable/defective                                                      | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| c) Not separate for sexes                                                    | —     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork). | 1     | —        | —                 | —                 | —                           |
| Total                                                                        | 2     | 1        | —                 | 1                 | —                           |

## SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1951

|                                                            |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| No. of different premises visited .....                    | 1214 |
| „ inspections made .....                                   | 2467 |
| „ of complaints received .....                             | 136  |
| „ defects or nuisances discovered .....                    | 145  |
| „ notices served (Informal) .....                          | 63   |
| „ notices served (Statutory) .....                         | 6    |
| „ prosecutions .....                                       | Nil  |
| „ <b>of defects or nuisances abated:—</b>                  |      |
| privies, W.C.'s, sink-wastes, etc. ....                    | 23   |
| drains and cesspools .....                                 | 7    |
| pigs and other animals .....                               | 2    |
| deficient or impure water .....                            | 28   |
| unclean houses .....                                       | 3    |
| overcrowded houses .....                                   | 15   |
| polluted ditches and streams .....                         | 1    |
| insanitary accumulations and deposits .....                | 1    |
| other defects or nuisances .....                           | 3    |
| „ premises disinfected .....                               | 4    |
| „ water samples for analysis (Public) .....                | 63   |
| „ water samples for analysis (Private) .....               | 10   |
| „ wells closed .....                                       | —    |
| „ wells cleansed, repaired or deepened .....               | —    |
| „ new wells sunk .....                                     | —    |
| „ new houses connected to water mains .....                | 145  |
| „ water certificates granted (Rural District only) .....   | —    |
| „ seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food ..... | 7    |
| „ conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s .....             | 7    |
| Canal boats on register .....                              | —    |
| Common Lodging Houses on register .....                    | —    |
| Slaughterhouses on register .....                          | 8    |
| Inspections .....                                          | 8    |
| Piggeries: Number of inspections .....                     | 4    |
| Number of retail dairies in district .....                 | 5    |
| Number of inspections .....                                | 72   |





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